

For Immediate Release
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Hinchey, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Officially Announce \$2 Million to Establish
Newburgh Renewable Energy Cluster
Grant Recipients TSEC, SUNY Orange and
Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows (GET)
Outline Jobs and Economic Development Plans

Newburgh, NY -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today was joined by U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development John Fernandez to officially announce \$1.95 million in federal [Jobs & Innovation Accelerator Challenge](#) (JIAC) grants to establish the "New York Renewable Energy Cluster" (NYREC) in Newburgh. Hinchey directly lobbied the Department of Commerce in support of the grants, which will allow The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) to expand its industry-led clean energy manufacturing cluster into Orange County through a partnership with Orange County Community College (SUNY Orange) and Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows (GET). Representatives from SUNY Orange, TSEC, GET and Orange County were on hand for the announcement.

"This is exactly the type of economic development I envisioned when I spearheaded the creation of TSEC in 2007," said Hinchey. "The City of Newburgh is a great city, which continues to struggle towards revitalization, and this new partnership between TSEC, SUNY Orange, and Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows, is going to help the City's revitalization through new economic development and the creation of green jobs. The program will help to provide expertise to new homegrown green energy businesses, and it will help educate and train local workers who can be employed by those businesses. This is outstanding news for Newburgh, and I know it will give a big boost to the region. A lot of hard work went into this, and it's going to create a lot of jobs for people here in Orange County as a result."

"The Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge is just one example of how the Obama Administration is collaborating to ensure a smarter use of existing federal resources to foster regional innovation in support of sustainable economic prosperity," said U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development John Fernandez. "Supporting bottom-up regional strategies through inter-agency collaboration is not only smart government, but the type of support regional economies need to grow and prosper. The investments being made in the New York Renewable Energy Cluster initiative will catalyze the growth of the region's alternative energy cluster to create new jobs and advance America's competitiveness."

"This is about creating good, modern, manufacturing jobs focusing on the city of Newburgh," added Vincent Cozzolino. "We will work hard, with all our partners, including the good people of the city, government, the non-profits, and especially industry to accomplish this goal. Everyone we talk to is excited about revitalizing the economy of the region and Newburgh which will bring opportunity to everyone. We are ready to go. Now."

"SUNY Orange welcomes the opportunity to participate in this exciting grant program and we appreciate the faith that our sister colleges have shown in us by allowing the College to lead the important educational portion of the New York Renewable Energy Cluster project," says Dr. William Richards, SUNY Orange president. "A significant part of SUNY Orange's mission is to support the development of a robust workforce in this region by offering a variety of academic degree and non-credit training programs. We are anxious to work with The Solar Energy Council, Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows, regional academic institutions and others to spur economic revitalization in the Hudson Valley, and this project's focus on job creation within the City of Newburgh also offers us another chance to reaffirm our commitment to the City and its continued resurgence."

President of Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows (GET) Enrique Rob Lunski, PhD. described the significance of the award. "The grant is important in several aspects. Firstly, it is about renewable energy technologies that will bring the future to the present. Secondly, this project is going to create jobs in the Mid Hudson Valley region. Finally, it will help to create new enterprises that don't exist right now. GETs will help to provide the entrepreneurial training and assistance that will create the new businesses around renewable energy."

The overall \$2 million JIAC package includes:

- \$800,000 to TSEC by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA). This funding will be used to establish cluster development mechanisms intended to become permanent features of NYREC's long-term development strategy. Activities will focus on business support services to start-ups, including market research, site analysis, and access to capital.
- \$1 million to SUNY Orange by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). This funding will be used to increase course offerings at participating schools and tailor them more precisely to renewable energy cluster needs, thereby enhancing their value as job-generating training. These courses will continue to be offered and expanded through tuition payments and Department of Labor funding.
- \$150,000 to Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows (GET) by the Small Business Administration to specifically target underserved and disadvantaged residents in Newburgh and provide the following services: mentoring, business plan development, export-readiness, technology commercialization, international and domestic marketing, accounting and legal business structures, internet commerce and employee management. Client referrals will be made to renewable energy industry experts who can vet business ideas for feasibility. Clients at appropriate stages of business development will be connected with venture capital groups and alternative financing entities, and receive

assistance with applications for state and federal R&D funding including federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR).

Since helping to establish The Solar Energy Consortium in 2007, Hinchey has secured \$31 million for TSEC and its partner companies, creating hundreds of new jobs in the Hudson Valley. Over 600 jobs throughout the region have been created as a result.